The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 8. NO. 12. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1918. WHOLE NO. 376.

PLACE THE TAXES UPON INCOMES AND PROFITS

Boston, June 15.—In response to questions put to Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor by the Washington representative of the Christian Science Monitor, he replied as follows on the impending revenue legislation now before congress for action:

"On incomes and profits is where taxes should be placed. It is impossible to speak in detail of how taxes should be distributed at the present time. It is a great problem to be worked out by congress.

"There is this to be said, however; labor is bigger than taxes. Labor conditions are going through many changes. Before the war there were hundreds of thousands of unemployed in the United States and Canada. There were so many that when a census was taken they did not dare to make it public. The war has taken up the slack, nothing more. There are still, in some places, many unemployed laborers. This is being taken care of, however, and, in so far as possible, without shifting the men from their homes.

"Men are getting good wages, but their living expenses are proportionately higher. They are paying their taxes, high ones, too, in everything they have to buy. They can do no more. The employer has greater expenses than formerly also, but he has the advantage of being able to add these expenses to the price of what he sells. He can come out whole, while the average working man, the consumer, has no one against whom he can charge up his expenses.

"As to the charge that the employer will be driven out of business by heavy taxation, it needs only to be pointed out that it is his profits that are to be taxed and as long as he has profits which warrant taxation he will suffer no wrong from the government. If one man does not want to carry on his business because of the heavy taxes, someone else will take it up.

"'Driven out of business?' What will he live on if he gives up his business? There may be a few who can retire on their gains, but business will have to be carried on and the government will have no interest in taxing it out of existence. The whole thing comes back to the fact that cannot be escaped, that those who have the profits or income will have to pay the expenses of this war.

"It is plain that money must be provided for expenses before they can be met. That is why congress has to face the problem now of finding out where the money is and how it can be made available for meeting future expenses. The working people are going to continue to do their share. There is no escape for them. They have nothing to do with fixing the price they pay for their daily living, the paying of war taxes."

DIRECTOR OF STEVEDORES.

New York, June 15.—Captain T. V. O'Conner, president of the Longshoremen's union, has been named as director of stevedores and marine workers and into his hands has been entrusted the duty of mobilizing the stevedores, marine workers and longshoremen in every port in the country. He will work under the direction of the employment service of the labor department, and will have associated with him representatives of the war and navy departments, shipping board, the railroad administration and department of labor. Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a central employment office near the Battery and branch offices wherever necessary. The size of this new work is indicated by the fact that he will handle at this port alone about 40,000 men each day.

WILL SEEK INFORMATION.

Washington, June 15.—With purpose to recommend to Director General McAdoo modifications of the new wage scale applying to shop employes, the board of railroad wages will seek from superintendents of motive power and other railway executives information throwing light on wages and working conditions.

Following this investigation, other classes of labor will have a chance to explain their reasons for being dissatisfied with the amount of wage increases. The first general payments of wages under the new scale will be made this week.

SHIPYARD STRIKE ENDS.

Vancouver, B. C., June 15.—The British Columbia shipyard strike, which is said to have involved nearly 10,000 men, ended when the workers, with the exception of the boilermakers, signed a new agreement. The boilermakers, however, are said to have agreed to return to work and remain until August 1 at least. The strike has been on for nearly three weeks, and was said to have been called to obtain wages and hours similar to those in effect in the United States.

REACHED A SETTLEMENT.

Hamilton, Ontario, June 15.—After a strike lasting four weeks the molders and core makers of Hamilton and Toronto have reached a settlement with the foundrymen which is a victory for the strikers. From May 1 the journeymen will receive $5.40 per day for nine hours' work. The men will be given each alternate Saturday afternoon off during June, July, August and September.

STRIKE AGAINST I. W. W.'S.

Hazelton, Pa., June 15.—The miners of No. 5 operations of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal company won their strike against the continued employment of 12 I. W. W. miners after a week's idleness. This is the first attempt of the I. W. W. to gain a foothold in the Lehigh field.

ALPINE HONORED.

Washington, June 15.—The department of labor has made the announcement that John R. Alpine, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, and president of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters, has been named as a member of the war labor policies board. The board is composed of five members.

NEW RATE FOR BARBERS.

Kansas City, Mo., June 15.—Barbers' union No. 192 has established new rates which call for 10½ hours a day, except on Saturdays. All journeymen are granted five hours off each week. The wages are $18 with 60 per cent for all over $30.

BAKERS GET $2 ADVANCE.

Kansas City, Mo., June 15.—An advance of $2 per week and an increase of 15 cents for overtime has been gained by Bakers' union No. 218 for the year.

INCREASES FOR PRINTERS.

Fresno, Cal., June 15.—For the past three years Typographical Union No. 144 has refrained from sending delegates to the central labor council. At the last meeting that was overcome by the union deciding to renew its affiliation. It was also reported that each member had contributed one day's pay to the Red Cross.

Eureka, Cal., June 15.—By a new agreement between Typographical Union and the proprietors of the commercial shops the wages of job printers are advanced from $26 to $28, and after January next they will be $30 per week. Day machine operators are advanced from $31.30 to $33 and night operators from $34.30 to $36.

Washington, June 15.—Learning that the newspaper machine operators were dissatisfied with the prevailing wage rate, the publishers notified the officers of Typographical Union No. 101 that they were ready to consider reasonable concessions. A committee was appointed to meet the publishers. As a result of the conferences that followed a new scale was formulated that calls for $5.50 for day work and $6 for night, seven hours to constitute a day's work. The advance means 85 5-7 cents for morning and 78 4-7 cents for afternoon operators.

Public Printer Cornelius Ford has recommended to congress that wages be increased for all the printing trades in the government printing office. The request is now in the hands of congress, but how soon it will be moved to act is problematical. The public printer also recommended that hereafter that official be permitted to increase wages when in his discretion he deems proper. Typographical union No. 101 will, no doubt, vigorously push the recommendations to a final issue, as no advances have been conceded the employes of the government printing office since the commencement of the war. The pressmen and printers are asking that their wages be increased to 75 cents per hour. The pressmen now receive 55 cents and the printers 50 cents. The bookbinders ask an advance from 50 to 75 cents per hour.

Youngstown, Ohio, June 15.—As the result of deferred negotiations due to the serious illness of one of the newspaper proprietors, a new scale was delayed from April 18 by Typographical Union No. 200. An agreement has, however, been reached which gives the journeymen an increase of $5 per week from the date named, and is effective for five years.

CIGARMAKERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Tampa, Fla., June 15.—The complete tie-up of the cigar factories, lasting four weeks, has terminated successfully for the workers. The compromise accepted includes the regulation of sizes which will prohibit the "juggling" of prices paid for work, and this one point will eliminate many disputes in the future. The settlement grants the men an increase of 75 per cent of the first demand in wages and concedes them all the rules and regulations demanded.

St. Louis, Mo., June 15.—Two hundred and fifty members of the Cigar Makers' union are out on strike, the firms refusing to accept certain shop rules, declaring that shop committees should not be discharged without the approval of the Cigar Makers' joint board. The employers had conceded increases of 50 cents and $1 per 1,000.

Mobile, Ala., June 15.—The cigarmakers of the Mobile district have been granted an increase in wages of $1 per thousand.

UNIFORM WAGE SCALE.

St. Paul, Minn., June 15.—A resolution recommending a uniform wage scale for all crafts making up the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor, was adopted at a meeting of the metal branch. Boilermakers, machinists, blacksmiths, electrical workers and plumbers are included in the metal trades department.

Speakers declared consideration of the government's needs should take precedence over all other matters. Those opposed to the resolution claimed that it would result in discontent among workers and remove the incentive to work for higher wages.

TO SHOW UP PROFITEERS.

Washington, June 15.—The senate passed the resolution submitted by Senator Borah, of Idaho, asking the secretary of the treasury for all available evidence regarding the profiteers the president referred to in his recent speech in congress, on the revenue bill.

An amendment, which Senator Borah said was approved by Senator Simmons, of the senate finance committee, was adopted, asking the secretary for the names and incomes of all corporations earning more than 15 per cent on their capital stock during 1917, as well as their net earnings for 1916. These figures will show up the profiteers, and give a basis for work on the revenue bill

NEW BARBERS' UNIONS.

Indianapolis, June 15.—General Secretary-Treasurer Jacob Fisher of the Journeymen Barbers International Union reports the following new unions for May:

Union No. 258, Independence, Mo.; Union No. 802, Charlotte, N. C.; Union No. 808, Charleston, S. C.; Union No. 810, Norfolk, Neb.; Union No. 811, Cannonsburg, Pa.; Union No. 812, Pensecola, Fla.; Union No. 813, Pascagoula, Miss.

SECURED CONCESSIONS.

Seattle, Wash., June 15.—The Photo-Engravers' union has entered into a new agreement with their employers which sets a new standard for this section in that industry. It is a flat scale and runs for two years and calls for $34.50 for the first year and $36 for the second with a 44-hour week.

LABOR PARTY'S PLATFORM.

Sydney, Australia, June 15.—The platform recommended for the Australian labor party's adoption at the coming convention includes proposals for a 40-hour week, Saturday being a universal holiday; an increase of old-age pensions to $5 a week, and nationalization of all mines.

CLERKS GET ADVANCE.

Bute, Mon., June 15.—Negotiations with the employers resulted in an understanding being reached whereby the members of the clerks' union will be conceded an 8-hour day and a 10 per cent advance in wages.

BARBERS ORGANIZE.

Pascagoula, Miss., June 15.—Local union No. 813 has been organized and includes journeymen from every shop in the city.

PATRIOTISM, UNITY, PROGRESS AT ST. PAUL

St. Paul, Minn., June 15.—With the opening of the thirty-eighth annual convention of the A. F. of L. in this city Monday, June 10, it was brought face to face with the most momentous problems ever confronting it during its history. Great changes in world affairs have taken place since the Buffalo convention, but under the wise leadership of its officials and the executive council they have been met in a way that has commanded the approval of all thoughtful and liberty-loving people, not only of America but of the civilized world.

A synopsis of the executive council's report on some of the more important questions is lucidly phrased in the subjoined excerpts:

"A crisis in world affairs has been reached. The battle lines of allies in France are menaced by the forces that represent autocratic government. Each day and hour of the coming months will hold in a fateful balance the destiny of the governments and the peoples representing the ideals which bring into being and maintain governments directed by the peoples themselves.

"America was drawn into this world war by the challenge of those autocratic forces which enthrone might as their chief aim. With the growth of achievements of our republic, this nation has stood as a beacon light to all the oppressed peoples of the earth. Our institutions have radiated to the utmost parts of the globe concepts of a government guided and maintained by the will of its people. It is a staggering thought to contemplate world dominion of autocracy and the destruction of opportunities we now enjoy and for which we have so valiantly contended. As a people imbued with the highest ideals of justice, the fact that the allied armies have their backs to the wall fighting the minions of autocracy, makes the present moment assume a ragged and dangerous front and moves us to the solemn duty of self-examination, to determine whether we are doing our full part.

"That grievous industrial wrongs exist no one can deny. The agency that has fought wrong, that has lifted men and women up to higher planes of life and work, that has stood between the oppressed and the oppressors, is the organized labor movement. It has accomplished this constructive remedial work through organized economic power.

"Use of our economic power has been tempered with such warmth of idealism that we have won the respect and confidence of those in places of responsibility and authority. The present administration, under the leadership of President Wilson, who has interpreted by word and act the spirit of democracy and humanity in a way that has made him the spokesman for world democracy, has recognized that only through labor has it been possible to fight this world war. The government has entered into contracts with organized labor and has provided agencies for dealing with problems that arise in production in which the government and workers are partners.

"Continuous, full power production depends upon the morale of the workers; that, in turn, is dependent upon a sense of justice.

"The workers in war production are practically a part of the fighting force, the army and navy. They can not stop work without interfering with the whole program. The whole campaign from production to where munitions are used in the field must be so precise, so well articulated, that nothing shall interfere with any forward movement if we are to check and defeat the best organized war machine the world has ever seen. No action should be taken in the shops or on the field not in harmony with the purposes of the war.

"Organized labor, susceptible to every impulse and stimulus of right, must recognize in its impartial and exacting judgment that the hour has struck for it to emphasize and declare its purpose and attitude anew and to help meet the overpowering force of circumstances and necessities which confront our nation.

"Organized labor, true to its traditions, has proffered its full and comprehensive support to the commander-in-chief, and it will not now be paralyzed by infirmity of purpose or action.

"Deeply impressed by the events upon the western battle fronts, we are constrained to place before our fellow-workmen a definite course of action. Yielding to no one in our determination to maintain for the working people of this country the right to work or not, to work for a reason or for no reason, yet at a time when the destiny of the democratic institutions of the world are trembling in the balance (and still holding sacred the principles of the rights enunciated) we can well afford to waive their exercise in a patriotic desire that the issues of this war may result in a successful termination.

"Workers, reserving the right to strike, should submit all differences to the authorized agencies and in every way seek to adjust difficulties without cessation of work. No strike should be inaugurated which can not be justified to the man risking his life on the firing line in France.

"An equal responsibility and duty devolves on employers to do everything within their power to maintain continuous production. As the best surety for this purpose; we urge all employers to endeavor to adjust all grievances of employes, to establish and maintain equitable, humanitarian conditions of work. The workers of America wish to co-operate in winning the war. Employers, inaugurate no industry policy which can not be justified to the man risking his life on the firing line.

"The American soldiers on the battle line must pay in large numbers the supreme sacrifice, which must exercise a dominating and inspiring influence upon the people of this nation. Let it not be said that the organized American workmen engaged in the production of the necessary accoutrements of war shall be found unwilling to make the sacrifice demanded of them in this hour.

"Unsparing industry and attention, unswerving and unselfish fidelity is the talisman for an immense capacity for ceaseless progress, and we are sure that in acting upon the suggestions herein offered, the American labor movement will embody a prudence and discernment that will meet the approbation of the people of our own country, as well as the profound gratitude of the workmen of other countries engaged in this terrific struggle.

"We urge that our movement respond to the call (conscious that the future is involved in profound uncertainty), so that when the history of this great contest is written, the service performed by the workmen of America will comprise its most conspicuous feature."

The report of Secretary Frank Morrison indicated very clearly the wonderful growth and increase in the membership of the A. F. of L., being much more encouraging than the one he submitted to the Buffalo convention seven months previous. It will be recalled that at that convention it was determined to change the time of meeting, and June was substituted for November. The phenomenal growth is indicated by the figures he submitted which show that on April 30, when his report closed, that the total membership was 2,726,478, an increase of 355,684, exceeding the figures given in his last report by 56,600, which covered 12 months. No other previous record compares with that in the history of the A., of L.

During the seven months ended April 30, there had been issued 323 charters to national, international, central, local trade and federal labor unions. Of this number three were granted to the following international unions: Railway Mail Association, International Association of Fire Fighters, and National Window Glass Workers, and also 35 central bodies. The report shows that the voting strength has increased from 24,973 to 28,375.

The total death benefits paid out during the past seven months is given at $1,989,623.16 by the various unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. The largest total paid was by the Street Railway Empolyes, being $317,594.25. Typographical union follows with $279,609.76; then comes the Carpenters with $237,975.02; the Cigarmakers, $210,000; Letter Carriers, $183,783.96, and Bricklayers and Masons, $150,042.62 Many of the local unions provide sick, death, and out-of-work benefits for their members in addition to the benefits paid by the internations.

Total cost of strikes reported for the seven months under review is given at $1,295,131.07. These figures do not give the full sums expended for the purposes named, as many of the organizations do not furnish detailed data.

President Wires His Congratulations to President Gompers.

St. Paul, Minn., June 15.—On the opening of the convention President Gompers read a wire he had received from President Wilson congratulating the A. F. of L. for the loyal and patriotic support it and its members has rendered the government in upholding the war program of the nation during the past year. It is as follows:

"Please convey to the thirty-eighth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor my congratulations upon the patriotic support which the members of your organization have given to the war program of the nation in the past year, not only in the trenches and on the battlefield, where so many of our younger men are now in uniform, but equally in the factories and shipyards and workshops of the country, where the army is supported and supplied by the loyal industry of your skilled craftsmen.

"We are facing the hardships of the crucial months of the struggle. The nation can face them confidently, assured now that no intrigues of the enemy can ever divide our unity by means of those industrial quarrels and class dissensions which he has tried so diligently to foment. In these days of trial and self-sacrifice the American workingman is bearing his share of the national burden nobly. In the new world of peace and freedom, which America is fighting to establish, his place will be as honored and his service as gratefully esteemed."

HIGH COMMENDATION FOR LABOR'S MISSION

New York, June 15.—The World editorialized on the result of the American labor mission to Europe as follows:

"The return of the American labor mission, which, representing the Federation of Labor, has visited Great Britain and France, marks the completion of an errand whose importance can hardly be overestimated. Both as to the character of the delegates and the manner in which they carried themselves, sometimes under great provocation, our principal organization of workingmen is to be congratulated. No trained diplomatists could have done better. No other Americans in any walk of life could have exhibited a loftier patriotism.

"These men had something more to say to the trade-unionists of Great Britain and France than that organized labor in the United States is pledged to the last man and the last dollar in support of the war. Their mission abroad comprehended also the assurance to workingmen everywhere that there is no sympathy in this country with the extremists and visionaries, deriving their inspiration chiefly from German sources, who hope by an inconclusive peace to instigate a war of classes and repeat on a larger scale the follies which in Russia have prostrated industry and for the time being defeated democracy.

"Our labor mission has spoken with authority, and, according to all accounts, its message has been received approvingly and hopefully by most of the workingmen of Great Britain and France, who, like our own, see no prospect of justice or progress in autocratic militarism or in intolerable anarchy."

NEW SCALE NEGOTIATED.

Portland, Ore., June 15.—Through a representative of the Sign and Pictorial Painters' union a new schle has been negotiated that will run until June 30, 1921. Under its provisions pictorial and sign painters will receive $6.50; helpers, $5; inexperienced helpers, $4; and after four months, $4.50. Eight hours shall constitute a day's work, and time and one-half for overtime and holidays.

WILL PAY UNION SCALE.

St. Louis, Mo., June 15.—The standardization bill, increasing the pay of city employes so as to conform with union scales in several branches of employment, was passed by the board of aldermen, by unanimous vote. The mayor has announced that he will sign the bill. The new bill will add about $550,000 a year to the municipal payroll.

ANOTHER UNION OF CLERKS.

New Orleans, La., June 15.—Sunset union No. 55, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, has just been organized in this city, making the fourth union of that brotherhood. Its members are employed on the M., L. and T. railroad. A fifth union of railroad clerks is now in process of formation.

METAL WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Wilmington, N. C., June 15.—A new Sheet Metal Workers' union has been formed including all the men employed at that trade in the city. The membership will be greatly augmented as soon as the ship yards are completed.

WIN AN 8-HOUR DAY.

Spokane, Wash., June 15.—Through mediation the long-drawn out strike of the Teamsters' union has terminated in establishing an eight-hour day accompanied by a substantial increase in wages.

ITALIAN TRADE UNIONS LOYAL

Washington, June 15.—News of significant activities on the part of the Italian syndicalist union, which will tend to mobilize further and make more effective Italy's labor supply, is given in official dispatches from Rome received.

These dispatches state that at Milan there will take place the first national labor congress, which was organized by the Italian syndicalist union, to form an Italian labor union.

Ordinarily the union does not emphasize patriotism and would unite labor in a purely syndicalist association, independent of political parties; but its fundamental idea in the present emergency is the collaboration of all classes for increased production and a firm national defense policy.

The Italian labor union is opposed to the general labor confederation which is under official socialist domination. The official socialists lean strongly to pacifism. The congress promises to be important. Numerous federations, and also the labor chamber, have adhered to the project.

OPPOSE SENATOR BROWN.

New York, June 15.—At a legislative conference of the Women's Trade Union league it was decided to arrange to begin active work in an effort to bring about the defeat of Senator Elon R. Brown at the next election. The league will send two working women into his district to explain to the working men and women his labor record in opposing legislation for the protection of women and children. The women say Senator Brown "has for years opposed all legislation bettering the condition of working women and children and has further attacked other labor laws affecting both men and women, using his great power as leader of his party against the most exploited of New York state's citizens."

THEY DEFERRED ACTION.

Schenectady, N. Y., June 15.—The 15,000 employes of the General Electric company did not go out on strike, as scheduled, but issued a statement to the effect that a partial acceptance of the company's offer of 10 per cent increase in wages caused them to defer action.

OLD OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

St. Paul, Minn., June 15.—In the building trades department, John Donlin of Chicago and William Spencer of Washington were re-elected president and secretary, respectively. John J. Hynes of Boston replaced D. D'Alesandero of Quincy, Mass., as fourth vice president.

NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED.

Chicago, June 15.—The old agreement of the Structural Iron Workers' union having expired on May 31, a new one has been negotiated at the rate of 87 1-2 cents per hour. All the men who had been on strike have returned to work under its provisions.

LABORERS WAGES FIXED.

Sacramento, Cal., June 15.—All contractors have been notified that the wages of the members of the Building Laborers' union will be $3.50 for eight hours in the future. That does not apply to such laborers as are not members.

INCREASE FOR BARTENDERS.

Boston, June 15.—As the result of negotiations the members of Bartenders' union No. 77 are now working under the provisions of a new scale which calls for $35 per week, an increase of $4 over the old rate.

WANT AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Wheeling, W. Va., June 15.—Moulders' union No. 246 has notified the employers of this district that after the expiration of their present agreement, June 16, that they will insist on the enforcement of the eight-hour day and time and a half for all overtime.

Detroit, Mich., June 15.—The proprietors of the ten large shops refusing to meet a committee representing Molders' and Core Makers' union No. 244 in conference for the purpose of reaching an understanding on their demands for an advance to 72½ cents per hour, an eight-hour day and time and a half, a strike was declared. The rate named was awarded to molders employed by ship yards on government work.

Brass and Aluminum Molders' union 400 has successfully established an eight-hour day, a 72½ cent rate and time and a half for overtime.

Worcester, Mass., June 15.—Following a number of conferences between proprietors of local foundries and a committee from Molders' union No. 5, a new schedule of $5.25 a day has been decided upon. This means an increase of 75 cents a day over the old rate. The new scale affects men employed on day work only.

CARPENTERS MAKE GAINS.

Indianapolis, June 15.—General Secretary Frank Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, reports the following wage increases of affiliated unions:

Berkshire county, Mass D. C., 50 to 62½ cents per hour; Greenville, Texas, 50 to 60 cents per hour; New York City (furniture workers), 42 to 56½ cents per hour; Appleton, Wis., 45 to 55 cents per hour, and the eight-hour day.

Pomery, Ohio, 50 to 62½ cents per hour; Kingston, Ont., Can., 45 to 50 cents per hour; Cleveland, Ohio (outside men), 70 to 80 cents per hour; Binghampton, N. Y., received their demands of 10 cents per hour, now receiving 60 cents per hour; Hackensack, N. J., 56½ to 65 cents per hour.

WANTS AN EXPLANATION.

Washington, June 15.—Representative Dudley Dolittle, of Kansas, said he would try to learn how Nelson Morris, youthful Chicago packer, is back in the capital with a "bomb proof" job in the quartermaster's corps. Morris claimed exemption from the draft on industrial grounds, then came to Washington to accept a "dollar-a-year" civilian appointment. Later his Chicago draft board ordered him into service, and he went to Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill., as a private, but within a few weeks he was again summoned to Washington to act as a "refrigeration expert."

FISH HANDLERS WIN.

Boston, June 15.—The strike of the Fish Handlers' union resulted in the men winning an increase that ranges from $2 to $2.50 per week. When an appeal was made to the strikers to furnish men to ice the fish on the pier a prompt response resulted, the union furnishing the men.

PLUMBERS WIN FIGHT.

Rochester, N. Y., June 15.—After a brief strike Plumbers' union No. 13 secured an advance in wages and returned to work. Under the new agreement an eight-hour day was secured and the wages will be $5.75 from June 1 to August 1. After that the prevailing rate will be $6.

NEW SCALE SECURED.

Paris, Tex., June 15.—A new scale has been negotiated by the Bookbinders' union which carries an advance of from $2.50 to $3 per week.

SEAMEN TO BOYCOTT GERMAN FREIGHT

London, June 15.—British seamen are determined to boycott Germans to the limit after the war. They are tremendously in earnest when they say they will not transport Teuton goods for five years after the dawn of peace.

Havelock Wilson, president of the Seamen and Firemen's union, says:

"I shall be well within the mark if I state that nearly 15,000 British seamen have been murdered by German pirates since August, 1914.

"It cannot be too widely known that the British sailors are in deadly earnest in their determination to apply the punitive boycott to Germany after the war. Less than a year ago the limit of the boycott was fixed at two years, but the penalty grows with the crime, and at the moment the period during which we shall decline to have anything to do with the transport of goods to or from Germany is five years and a half.

"Almost by every post we are enrolling new members in the Merchant Seamen's league, and we have yet to discover a hall that is too large for our meetings in any part of the country.

"Those candidates at the next general election who do not definitely pledge themselves to the policy of the league will have a poor chance of finding their way to parliament We are organizing branches of the league in every constituency, and shall be prepared to run candidates against those who do not satisfy us on the score of their sympathy with our objects. We are not taking this line because we want parliament to do anything for us. We do not want parliament to interfere. We want this thing to be carried through by the people."

IMPROVED CONDITIONS.

Bridgeport, June 15.—Organized drug clerks expect to be working soon under changed conditions, meaning higher wages, a six-day week and a vacation period. The clerks are fully organized under the Retail Clerks' International Protective Assoication as Local No. 520. The wages called for are not less than $30 per week for registered pharmacists and $25 for registered assistants.

SUBWAY WORK TIED UP.

New York, June 15.—Construction work on the new Interborough and Brooklyn Rapid Transit subway system is tied up by a strike of hoisting, traction and electrical engineers. It was reported that 7,000 men had quit work. A wage increase granted the men last week had been held up on account of a controversy between the public service commission and the board of estimate.

BIG INCREASE IN UNIONS.

Kansas City, Mo., June 15.—General Secretary John E. Bray, of the Sheet Metal Workers' International union, reports big gains in membership in his organization, over one hundred charters being issued since the first of the year.

TEAMSTERS GET EIGHT HOURS

Bute, Mon., June 15.—All teamsters and truck drivers coming under the jurisdiction of the Teamsters' union will be granted eight hours, double time for overtime and 10 per cent increase in wages.

CLOTHING CUTTERS GET $2.

Baltimore, Md., June 15.—Clothing Cutters' and Trimmers' union No. 15 was awarded an increase of $2 a week in nearly all the shops. On February 12 a similar advance was secured.

AGAIN INTERCEDES.

Sacramento, Cal., June 15.—Governor Stephens has announced that he had received a telegram from President Wilson in regard to the Mooney case and that he replied. In response to a question, he said: "Nothing further will be given out at this time." No further immediate action in the case is expected.

Mooney's lawyers have announced their intention to apply to the state supreme court for a writ of probate cause, and it was indicated here that the governor was awaiting the outcome of this action.

In commenting on the second request of President Wilson, the New York World says:

"Weighty reasons are doubtless back of President Wilson's second request to Gov. Stephens of California for the pardon of Thomas J. Mooney, under sentence of death and in the exhaustion of all other modes of legal relief. But there is one known reason which is enough. It is doubt of the man's guilt, which is entertained by the trial judge himself. To hang a man on such a doubt is precisely something which neither this nation nor any state in the nation can afford to do, either at this or at any other time."

San Francisco, June 15.—District Attorney Fickert filed a brief with Governor Stephens charging that Thomas J. Mooney was in the employ of the German government.

STREET CAR MEN'S NOTES.

St. Louis, Mo., June 15.—The strike of the street car men has been adjusted by the company agreeing to meet and treat with representatives of the union. Extra men are to receive $70 per month providing they show up three times a day. Beginning with first year a wage of 36 cents per hour is insured. After a service of seven years the maximum will be 40½ cents. The scale will continue for three years.

Eureka, Cal., June 15.—As the result of negotiations covering several weeks the Humbolt Transit company has conceded an advance from 27½ cents an hour to 36 as a result of the formation of a new union.

Albany, N. Y., June 15.—The strike of the employes of the United Traction company to enforce an increase of 9 cents per hour was ended when the company conceded 6½ cents and agreed to submit the question of the additional 2½ cents to the labor war board for a decision.

Davenport, Ia., June 15.—The street car men composing Divisions 312 and 527 (this city and Rock Island) have been conceded an advance of four cents an hour, bringing the wages up to 33 and 39 cents.

WANT FEDERAL PROTECTION.

Birmingham, Ala., June 15.—Appeals to Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and to members of congress from this district for federal protection for organized labor, have been made by the Birmingham trades council. This follows the tarring and feathering of William Hale, negro, organizer for the American Federation of Labor, and warning to leave the district given him, and Edward Crough, organizer of Mine, Mill and Smelter workers by a band of unknown parties in North Birmingham.

It was stated in telegrams to Mr. Gompers and others, that organized labor demands protection from the government in their right to organize; that no protection was afforded by local authorities and that if protection is not forthcoming organized labor will be forced to defend itself in its own way.

LEATHER WORKERS PROGRESS

Kansas City, Mo., June 15.—General Secretary-Treasurer John P. Pfeiffer, of the United Leather Workers' International union, reports the following unions organized during May: Wilmington, Del. (leather glazers); San Francisco, Cal. (tannery workers); Nashville, Tenn. (saddlery workers); Saginaw, Mich. (saddlery workers); Redwood City, Cal. (tannery workers); Kingston, Ont. (tannery workers); two at Seattle, Wash. (travelers' goods and saddlery workers); Cairo, Ill. (saddlery workers); Sheboygan, Wis. (tannery workers); New Orleans, La. (saddlery workers).

AUTOMATICALLY ENDED.

Cleveland, O., June 15.—The building trades strike that has been on here since May 1 has terminated by the signing of an agreement with the builders' exchange that runs for a period of three years from May 1, 1918, automatically ending the dispute. It affected about 15,000 men when the dispute arose. The agreement assures peace during its life. It requires six months' notice before any change can be made. Carpenters, laborers, plasterers, cement finishers and slate and tile roofers have not reached an agreement on wages, but it is understood that they will do so. Nonunion men are barred from working on any union jobs. Jurisdictional disputes shall be referred to a conciliation board and work continued until a conclusion is reached.

NOME STRIKE UNSETTLED.

Nome, Alaska, June 15.—Notwithstanding the fact that hundreds of men are out of work here, the mine owners are sending out reports that work is plentiful. The members of the Mine Workers' union is still on strike for recognition and the enforcement of the general eight-hour law. Workers are warned to stay away from this section. Less work will be done this summer than in any season in the history of the camp.

OLD OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

St. Paul, Minn., June 15.—President James O'Connell and Secretary A. F. Berris, were re-elected by the metal trades department.

After lengthy debate the building trades department voted to place reinforced construction work under the jurisdiction of the carpenters' union. This action nullified a previous decision in favor of several iron workers' unions.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE.

Toronto, Canada, June 15.—The Granite Cutters' union has just completed a new agreement with the employers which provides for a minimum wage of $5 a day for eight hours, and was reached by peaceful negotiations.

HAVE THE FEVER, TOO.

New Orleans, La., June 15.—Local union No. 16, with a charter from the International Union of Elevator Constructors, has been organized and includes nearly all the workers in that industry.

DOLLAR-CHASING MILL OWNERS NOW REJOICE

Washington, June 15.—In commenting on the recent decision of the United States supreme court in declaring the child labor law invalid, the Herald says:

"For years vain battles have been fought in many states to prevent exploitation of children in the mills. The south has been especially guilty of this, the blood, the youth, the health, the very life of little boys and girls being coined into dollars by the owners of textile mills. There was well-nigh universal rejoicing, therefore, when in 1916 congress passed and the president heartily approved a law forbidding interstate shipment of products of child labor.

"Now all this work has been undone by a five-to-four reactionary decision of the United States supreme court. In order to knock out the law Justice Day, who handed down the opinion, invoked the sacred fetich of state rights. Justice Holmes, in his dissenting opinion, concurred in by Justices McKenna, Brandeis and Clarke, put the case so clearly that he who runs may read:

"'The act does not meddle with anything belonging to the states. They may regulate their internal affairs and their domestic commerce as they like. But when they seek to send their products across the state line they are no longer within their rights. If there were no constitution and no congress their power to cross the line would depend upon their neighbors.'

"In other words, North Carolina mills may employ child labor all they want and peddle their blood-stained goods all over the state. But it is up to other states to say whether they desire to have such goods shipped into their confines.

"Nothing that is North Carolina's by right is interferred with. But the states of the union, speaking through their duly elected representatives in congress and through the president, have joined by a majority vote in saying what they will permit to be shipped outside of North Carolina. North Carolina has no inherent right to dictate to other states what kind of stuff she shall be permitted to sell within their borders.

"The law, the logic, the common sense and the humanity of the Holmes dissenting opinion are unanswerable. Greedy, dollar-chasing mill owners alone will rejoice in Justice Day's dictum."

BUILDING TRADES STAND PAT.

Oklahoma City, Okla., June 15.—A determined effort is being made by the contractors of this city to destroy the building trades council by using two nonunion plumbers to work on jobs that have been fair and where the contractor had signed up with the council. The effort is being vigorously fought by the unions involved and all are now out on strike with the exception of one trade. When the men were first put on a job a protest was made to the contractor. He replied that the unfair men would remain, despite the fact that he had a signed agreement with the unions composing the building trades council. A strike followed. As soon as that action was taken the two nonunion plumbers were taken to a second job. That scheme was continued until all union jobs were on strike. The contractors having forced the issue the workers will continue the fight until a satisfactory adjustment is reached.

2,500 LABORERS STRIKE.

Boston, June, 15.—Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' union No. 209 struck, affecting all the big jobs in the city. They demanded 50 cents an hour for skilled labor, and 47½ cents for common laborers. The 500 men working on government work were not affected. The union has a membership of 2,500.

St. Louis, Mo., June 15.—Hodcarriers' and Building Laborers' unions Nos. 22 and 53 were granted an increase of five cents an hour, effective June 1. This gives them a wage of 45 cents an hour and an eight-hour day for almost 1,300 members.

MAKING RAPID PROGRESS.

Washington, June 15.—Rapid progress is reported by the conciliation service of the department of labor in the adjustment of industrial disputes. The department reports settlement during the past week of 27 cases, 18 of which were controversies, seven strikes and two threatened strikes. Approximately 50,000 men were involved; of these, however, only 1,100 were actually on strike. No serious strike occurred in any war industry. The most serious difficulty involved only 30,000 men in the building trades of Cleveland. This was adjusted by a commissioner of conciliation.

UNION HAS 1,500 MEMBERS.

Pascagoula, Miss., June 15.—Local union No. 1700, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, organized August 27, 1917, has perhaps experienced a most phenominal increase in membership. The union has organized the Home Building association, all the shares being held by its members, the price being $10. The object of the association is to erect houses for its members, which the government will take over and allow a liberal profit for the investment. Its membership is now 1,500.

WILLING TO ARBITRATE.

Chicago, June 15.—The strike of the stock handlers, because they were not granted the same concessions called for under the finding of Judge Alschuler in his recent decision, was temporarily adjusted when the company involved accepted a proposition to submit their grievances to arbitration. Judge Alschuler was accepted as the arbiter.

ROOFERS ARE ADVANCED.

Cleveland, O., June 15.—Slate and Tile Roofers' union No. 11 endorsed the report of the executive committee, which handled the new wage scale. The compromise provides for an increase from 80 to 85 cents an hour. The helpers will receive 55 cents and on Sept. 1 60 cents an hour.

FIVE CENTS AN HOUR MORE.

Boston, June 15.—More than 265 men affiliated with Boston Cement Finishers' union No. 874 have been granted an increase of five cents per hour, bringing their wages to $6 a day for journeymen and $6.40 a day for foremen.

NEW SCALE IN EFFECT.

York, Pa., June 15.—The new scale of the Electrical Workers' union is now in effect, having been accepted by all firms in the city. It calls for 65 cents an hour.